

Continuing the Iowa



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Continuing The Iowa Tradition



Fall Fun

Back to school means a routine of going to bed earlier, homework and sports practices. But don't let the beginning of school spoil the rest of your summer fun.

As summer gradually turns to fall, spend some time outdoors between school activities to watch nature change its routine, too. Observe the leaves as they change many brilliant colors and the various animals as some prepare for winter and others migrate south.

Pull out your jackets to go camping and picnicking with your family, and roast hot dogs over the open fire. Do some fall fishing. Check out the activities and hunting dates on the calendar, so you can go experience these things with your family.

As you explore the outdoors this fall, make these many events new traditions. Ask others about long-lasting traditions so you can help preserve and continue an Iowa legacy.



When is a Waterfowl Hunter a Boater?

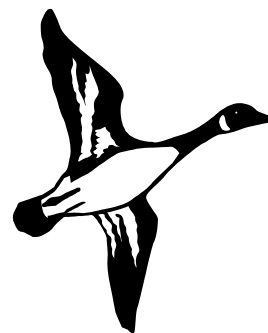
by Dale Anderson

Waterfowl hunters are an independent lot. They usually have their own favorite brand of nontoxic shot shells; they like a particular type of decoy; they have their favorite waterfowl shotgun; and they don't consider themselves boaters. After all, isn't the duck boat simply a means of getting to your hunting blind and back to the ramp at the end of the hunt? Waterfowl hunters shouldn't have to worry about life jackets, fire extinguishers, boat cushions, and the like...should they?

You'd better believe they should worry about them. Each year many duck and goose hunters drown because they failed to properly prepare for their boating experience. They did not think of hunting their favorite game as an exercise in boating.

Recently, Minnesota reviewed 10 separate accidents that resulted in 14 waterfowl hunter deaths and found eight common factors that contributed to those deaths.

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2005 Educational Youth Deer Hunt

Promoting Youth in the Outdoors through Education and Involvement

by Kim Rasler - Springbrook CEC

Don't miss this great opportunity! This year's Educational Youth Deer Hunt is scheduled for November 18-20, 2005.

A Bold Beginning

In 2004, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources sponsored its first Educational Youth Deer Hunt at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center at Springbrook State Park. The event was designed to introduce youth hunters (male and female), ages 12-15 years, to the outdoors and the sport of antlerless deer hunting using mentors and an educational program.

Though limited to only 20 youth last year, the program was very successful, and is considering increasing the number of participants in 2005, as well as the number of locations to hunt in (Springbrook State Park, Viking Lake, and Green Valley).

Excellent Education



The Educational Youth Deer Hunt consists of information on the many aspects of deer hunting which helps create a positive and safe experience for the youth and mentor.

This year's educational programs will, again, be held at Springbrook Conservation Education Center and consist of

- whitetail management/biology
- scouting basics
- safety issues
- field dressing

- hunting equipment
- game care
- safety trail
- blood trailing
- hunting laws
- sighting in of fire arms
- photography
- processing

Programs strive to be hands-on to allow participants active involvement. The hunt follows the educational sessions to allow the youth to apply what they have learned. Parks will be marked off in hunting areas and each youth/mentor team will be assigned an area to hunt and harvest one deer. Though the 2005 cost has not been set, it will be minimal for the in-depth educational programs, lodging, food, and hunting experience.

Awesome Experiences



The beauty of this opportunity is that all levels of experience - in the youth or mentor - are welcome and encouraged to attend. Some of the participants in 2004 included a mother/son team with no hunting experience (who harvested their first deer that weekend), a youth who lives with his grandmother

that was provided a qualified mentor, and a physically disabled father who participated with his son through the program. To provide an opportunity for as many people as possible, there is also access to Bud Lifts (hydraulic deer stands), for individuals with physical challenges.

The 11 deer harvested in 2004 proved the experience even more successful for everyone involved. Some hunters had theirs processed at a local locker; some took theirs home; and some hunters donated theirs to the HUSH program (Help Us Stop Hunger - www.iowahush.com).

Prime Preparation



To participate in the hunt, youth hunters need to acquire a Hunter's Education certificate. To do this, they need to complete a

Hunter's Education course, which is offered locally. You can find Hunter Education Courses on-line at: <http://www.iowadnr.com/law/lawdb/viewcourse.html>.

Other criteria youth must meet are to: 1) attain the age of 12 years or not be older than 15 years by 11/18/05, 2) never have harvested a deer before, and 3) obtain a mentor. A qualified mentor is someone who is 18+ years with a valid 2005 hunting license and habitat stamp who will accompany the youth.

The mentor's role is to help guide a youth hunter toward the ethical and enjoyable sport of hunting using the program and opportunities at Springbrook. (If a youth does not have access to a mentor, the option of requesting a mentor from Springbrook CEC may be arranged.)

Interesting Information

The Educational Youth Deer Hunt is an excellent way to introduce this exciting sport to a new generation as well as help control the deer population. This program gives young hunters an opportunity for a positive first experience that they can carry with them the rest of their lives and allow the mentors to share in that experience, also.

For more information, contact A.Jay Winter at Springbrook Conservation Education Center 641-747-8383 extension 11 or at ajay.winter@dnr.state.ia.us.

• Buy your hunting and fishing licenses on-line at www.iowadnr.com.

• Just click on Hunting Information on the menu at the right and then click on Hunting/Trapping License Fees.

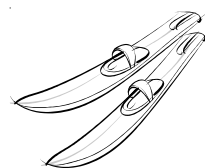
Natural Area Spotlight



In 1951 Green Valley Lake was built through the City of Creston, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the electric company combining their resources. A contest was held to see who could come up with the best name for the lake, and Lena Simpson won with the name Green Valley Lake.

Green Valley Lake and State Park have contributed much to the state park system. Water skiing rules were first tested on this lake and famous guests such as Smokey Bear, Ric Rac Raccoon and Woodsy Owl have often visited the park.

With nearly 1,000 acres to explore, many visitors today enjoy camping, walking the nature trails, swimming and playing on the beach, fishing or simply driving through the park to see the abundant wildlife all-year long. In the spring, summer and fall, the hiking trails are surrounded by beautiful prairie flowers and grasses. In the winter, ice fishermen of all ages come to the lake. Visit Green Valley and explore nature any time of year!



Green Valley Guages

Lake area: 390 acres

Water ski area: 150 acres

Hiking trails: 13 miles

Boat ramps: 4

Handicap fishing piers: 2

Cabins: 2

Campsites: 144

Shoreline length: 12 mi.

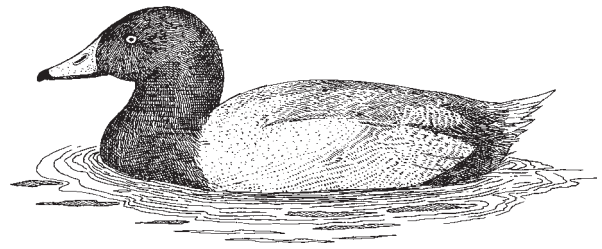


When is a Waterfowl Hunter is a Boater? *continued*

- Waterfowlers are more likely to drown in a boating accident than be shot by a hunting companion.
- None of the victims were wearing a personal flotation device (PFD), and only one even had a flotation cushion in the boat.
- 2/3 were men between the ages of 18 and 23 years of age. Possibly because young men are more likely to take greater risks, and generally have less experience than older hunters.
- All of the accidents were a result of the boat capsizing or swamping due to overloading, sudden shifts in weight, or weather conditions.
- All but one happened under cold, stormy conditions in the latter half of the season.
- 60% were in canoes or boats 12' and under.
- Hypothermia (loss of body heat due to immersion in cold water) was a contributing cause in most of these deaths.
- More waterfowl hunter drownings occur on small sloughs than big lakes, possibly because big water hunters use larger, more stable boats, and are more likely to carry PFDs.

So what do these factors teach us about water safety and waterfowl hunting? The most important thing we can do is wear our PFDs while traveling to and from the blind. Now most waterfowl hunters will tell you that they do not want the orange from most

common PFDs in their boat to scare off the ducks or geese. There is a solution to that problem. PFD manufacturers now make a camouflage version of a PFD called a "float coat". This is simply



a long-sleeved coat with floatation built right into the lining of the coat. Just make sure that the coat is U.S. Coast Guard approved. You can tell this by looking for the approval tag either stitched into the fabric or stamped in ink on the fabric. Somewhere on that tag will be a "Coast Guard Approval Number" which assures that the PFD you purchased has passed stringent testing requirements and is certified as a safe, dependable life saving device.

Another thing these factors can tell us is that overloading should be avoided at all costs. All boats built within the past several decades have a capacity plate which shows how large of a motor you can use, how many people you may haul in the boat at one time, and the maximum load limit of the boat. Keep in mind that all of those decoys, decoy weights, shot-guns, shells, boat gas, lunches, coffee, and whatever else you take waterfowl hunting adds weight to your boat. Make sure that your boats maximum capacity is not exceeded.

Watch the weather when you go hunting. Many seasoned waterfowlers will tell you that the best



hunting of their lives has occurred just before a storm front. If you see a storm front approaching, plan your route of escape and remember that many hunters will be heading for the boat ramp at the same time. If you plan to ride the storm out, make sure that you are in a protected area where large waves cannot reach you and do not attempt to cross a large body of water in such conditions. Older duck hunters often tell the stories of the

famous Armistice Day Storm of 1940 when hundreds of hunters were stranded and scores drowned when boats capsized or swamped in six foot swells whipped by 50 MPH winds.

When is a Waterfowl Hunter is a Boater? *continued*

If you do find yourself unexpectedly in the water, DON'T take off your boots/waders. Just keep your knees bent to trap air in them and they will float the least buoyant part of your body – your legs. If you are wearing your float coat, you can easily stay afloat for long periods of time under these conditions. Your only concern then will be staying warm and avoiding hypothermia.

To lessen the effects of this deadly phenomenon, assume the heat escape lessening position (H.E.L.P.). Just cross your ankles, keep your arms folded over your chest, and draw your knees up to your chest. As you lean back, you should try to relax. This position should lessen the escape of heat from your body by at least 50%. This is a good time to make use of a signaling device like a whistle to summon aid.

The last thing these factors can tell us is that alcohol and hunting do not mix. Alcohol not only impairs your judgment while hunting, but it also makes you feel warm increasing your susceptibility to hypothermia.

Well, there you have it – several reasons why waterfowl hunters need to realize that they truly are boaters. If every duck and goose hunter will just take a little time to prepare their hunting boat for the upcoming waterfowl season, it will be possible to have both a fun AND safe hunting adventure.

Statistics used are from Minnesota DNR pamphlet "Prescription For Duck Hunters"

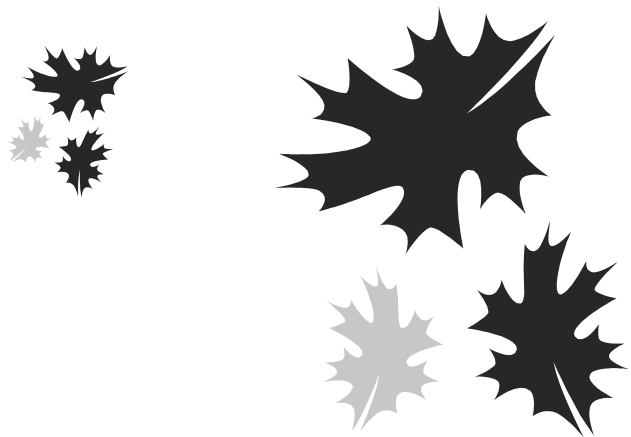
Make a Stained Glass Picture

What you need


- Black construction paper
- Wax paper
- Crayons or crayon pieces in fall colors
- Glue
- Scissors
- Iron (with adult supervision)

How to make it


1. Take black construction paper, and cut it into 5x5 squares.
2. With two pieces of paper together, trace a leaf on the top square. Then, cut out the leaf with the two pieces together. The square will remain solid around the edges with a leaf pattern cut out of the middle.
3. Next, shave crayons using colors of fall leaves. Using a warm iron, melt the crayon shavings between two pieces of wax paper.
4. Then, cut the wax paper to fit between the two squares of construction paper.
5. To assemble the "window," place one square of construction paper on the table, and glue your wax paper "glass" to that square. Then, place the second square over the first square making sure your leaf pattern matches up.
6. Glue the two squares together and hang in the window.



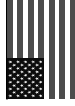

September 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Catch a walleye at Lake Manawa for the Fish-of-the-Month program and enter for a chance to win prizes. Call Woods Sporting Goods for more details at 712-366-0444.				1 Cottontail rabbit and fox and gray squirrel seasons open	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 Take a trip to your local apple orchard. Spend time with your family picking apples. Visit http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/season/expert/dony1000aafall/ to see crafts you can make with apples.	7	8	9	10
11 Take an outside picture as the leaves begin to change color. Use a placemat-sized piece of paper to "mat" your picture. Decorate the border with leaf prints or drawings. Laminate it with contact paper.	12	13	14	15 Wildcat Den State Park Bucksinners Rendezvous Sept. 15-17	16	17 Deer special youth and disabled hunter season opens Heritage Day at Wildcat Den
18 Motorcycle Rally Lacey-Keosauqua State Park Sept. 16-18	19	20	21	22 Autumn begins 	23	24 Ft. Atkinson State Preserve Bucksinners Rendezvous
25 Ft. Atkinson State Preserve Bucksinners Rendezvous	26	27	28 Visit http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/files/seasondates.html and http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/files/duck05.html for more information on hunting dates and rules and regulations.	29	30	

October 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rooster pheasant, bobwhite quail, jack rabbit seasons open on Oct. 29. Ruffed grouse, white-fronted geese, light geese, pigeon and woodcock seasons open on Oct. 1.						1 Moonlight Event at Cedar Rock SP Deer and fall turkey bow seasons open
2 Deer special youth and disabled hunter season ends	3	4 Visit http://www.kidsturncentral.com/fall.htm to do more fall activities - jigsaw puzzles, word searches, clipart, etc	5	6	7	8 Youth water-fowl hunting season Gray partridge season opens
9 Youth water-fowl hunting season	10 Fall turkey gun season opens Columbus Day	11	12 Rake leaves into a pile and jump into them	13 a pile and jump	14	15 Deer early muzzleloader season opens and closes on Oct. 23
16 Mines of Spain State Park Friends Group Appreciation Dinner	17 Take a nature walk and see how many different leaf colors, shapes, and sizes you can find.	18	19	20	21	22 Youth rooster pheasant season
23 Youth rooster pheasant season	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Daylight Savings Time ends	31  Happy Halloween					

November 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Raccoon, opossum, red and gray fox, mink, muskrat, weasel, striped skunk, badger and beaver seasons open on Nov. 5		1 Stuff a scarecrow. Break out an old shirt and overalls and stuff until firm. Complete with a pumpkin head. Visti http://jas.familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts?page=CraftDisplay&craftid=10693 to learn more.	2	3	4	5
6 Play name that leaf. Go out into the neighborhood or local park and have players collect five unusual leaves. Back home, try to identify the trees they came from using guidebooks.	7	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day 	12
13	14 Make a sun catcher. Using a low setting, iron a leaf between two pieces of waxed paper with a sheet of plain paper on top. Hang in a sunny window.	15	16	17	18	19
20 Make leaf rubbings. Choose a leaf (avoid very dry leaves, which crumble too easily) and place a piece of white paper over it. Take a crayon and rub back and forth over the leaf. Soon the impression of the leaf will appear on the paper.	21	22	23	24 Turkey Day 	25 Special Antlerless Season Opens	26
27 Special Antlerless Season Ends	28	29	30			